

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5789

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 712

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB FI

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FINNISH METALWORKERS VISIT

REF: STATE 44212

1. EMBASSY LABATT HAS HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS IN RECENT WEEKS WITH METALWORKERS' INFORMATION SECRETARY JORMA CANTELL ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF VISIT BY METALWORKERS TO LOOK INTO US LABOR EDUCATION FACILITIES. DUE TO LANGUAGE PROBLEM METALWORKERS NOW THINKING IN TERMS OF TRAVEL BY ONLY ONE PERSON, THEIR EDUCATION AND WOMEN'S AFFAIRS SECRETARY, MRS. TUULIKKI KANNISTO.

2. VISIT DOES NOT FIT INTO EMBASSY'S IV PROGRAM AND METALWORKERS WOULD IN MANY RESPECTS PREFER TRIP TO TAKE PLACE ON UNION- TO- UNION BASIS. FINNISH UNION CAN AFFORD TO PAY FOR TRIP, BUT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERS SUCH AS CANTELL AND CHAIRMAN SULO PENTTILA ARE OF OPINION THAT UNION'S LARGE COMMUNIST MINORITY WOULD EXACT QUID PRO QUO, SUCH AS THREE- MONTH STUDY TRIP TO USSR FOR ONE OF ITS SUPPORTERS, UNLESS KANNISTO TRIP TO US WERE IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION FROM US SIDE. CANTELL, IN CASTING ABOUT FOR A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM, WONDERED IF ANY US UNION REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE ATTENDING IMF WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI IN MAY WHICH MRS KANNISTO IS ORGANIZING. IT WOULD BE NATURAL FOR AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE US TO BE EXTENDED AT THAT TIME, CANTELL THOUGHT. IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT US UNIONS ARE NOT USUALLY REPRESENTED AT  
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THESE IMF WOMEN' S GATHERINGS AND SOME OTHER AVENUE WILL HAVE TO BE SOUGHT. PERHAPS HERMAN REBHAN OF UAW, WHOSE BLACK LAKE CENTER IS WELL- KNOWN HERE, COULD WRITE TO CHAIRMAN PENTTILA WHOM HE MAY HAVE MET IN SAN FRANCISCO AT DECEMBER IMF MEETING, OR TO CANTELL WHOM HE MET IN WASHINGTON LAST MAY, THAT HE HAD HEARD THROUGH US LABOR DEPARTMENT THAT FINNISH METALWORKERS WERE PLANNING TO ESTABLISH AN EDUCATIONAL CENTER. HE COULD OFFER TO PROVIDE MATERIAL ON UAW' S EXPERIENCE AND SAY UAW WOULD BE PLEASED TO SHOW OFF FAMILY TRAINING CENTER AND OTHER FACILITIES IF METALWORKERS' REPRESENTATIVE WERE TO VISIT US. WITH THIS CUE METALWORKERS COULD PICK UP TAB FOR AIR FARE AND PROBABLY EVEN SOME ADDITIONAL COSTS BUT THIS COULD BE WORKED OUT BY CORRESPONDENCE. AN APPROACH BY UAW WOULD HAVE ADVANTAGES OF PAST CONTACTS WITH FINNS THROUGH VICTOR REUTHER AND OTHERS AS WELL AS FACT THAT NORTHERN AND EASTERN MICHIGAN IS AREA OF HEAVY FINNISH- AMERICAN SETTLEMENT, E. G. SUOMI COLLEGE IN HANCOCK, MICHIGAN.

4. IF VISIT GETS OFF THE GROUND THROUGH CONTACT LIKE ONE OUTLINED ABOVE, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO REQUEST FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE TO PROGRAM TWO OR THREE DAYS FOR MRS. KANNISTO IN WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH LABOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS AND VISIT AFL- CIO CENTER IN SILVER SPRING. PETERSON

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

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